To the Nobility, Clergy, and Gentry of the City and County of *Glouceſter*; and to all other Perſons, of what Dignity, Degree, or Quality ſoever:

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Abell Wantner, *Citizen of Glouceſter, moſt humbly certifieth,*

THAT for theſe Thirteen Years paſt he hath made it his great Buſineſs and Deſign to Collect the Antiquities and other Remarkable Obſervations of his Native City and County, into one entire Volume, being a Large and True Hiſtory of the City and County of *Glouceſter*, in *Folio*, which is now in the Preſs, as may appear by the *Specimen* of the Firſt Sheet, ready to be preſented to any Gentleman that deſireth a ſight of it.

The Author therefore humbly requeſteth all Gentlemen and others, that are willing to promote this ſo Good and Uſeful a Work (by way of Subſcription) not to defer any longer their Subſcribing, which hath been the only occaſion of its being kept back ſo long; which, if now encourag'd, will be the means to have it appear by *Midſummer* next at fartheſt. And to the intent that no Man ſhall be wanting to know the Subject Matter on which it chiefly treateth, the Author hath here inſerted a Brief Abſtract of the moſt Particular Heads therein contained; keeping the ſame Order and Method in theſe his laſt Propoſals, as you will find them ſpecified in the Book, which ſhall be Printed with the ſame ſort of Letter and Paper.

In the Firſt Section you have the Original Denomination and Building of the ancient Village, Burrough, and City of *Glouceſter*, and by whom Augmented and Increaſed, trac'd through the *Britains*, *Romans*, and *Saxons*, *&c.* to King *Richard* the Third; begun with variety of Hiſtorical Relations, and continued with ſundry Remarkable and Modern Obſervations, briefly compiled out of the moſt approved Authors, as well before as ſince the Conqueſt: To which I have annexed a particular Survey of its Strength and Fortifications before it was demoliſhed, and a Compendious Narrative of the River *Severn*. Next you have a General Survey of the whole City, by way of Delineation, with the ancient Names of every Street and Lane, the Deſcription of the demoliſhed Churches, with an Account of all thoſe that are now ſtanding; and what Statues, Monuments, or other Memorials, and Charitable Gifts are bequeathed to every Church, and to the Poor of every Pariſh in the City. Where you have likewiſe an Account of every Hoſpital, Alms-houſe, Free-ſchool, and other Charitable Endowments, and by whom built and endowed, and how many Poor People each of them doth entertain, and who built moſt of the Eminent Places in the City. And laſtly, You have the Conſtitution of its Government, and Privileges, their Number and Aſſiſtants, their Electing of the Mayors, *&c.* the Extenſion of the Mace (or Perambulation-Line), the Names of each Earl and Duke of *Glouceſter*, and when Created; with a Catalogue of every Mayor and Sheriff.

In the Second Section you have the Original Foundation of that once moſt Stately Fabrick, the Ancient Abby or Monaſtery of *Glouceſter*, and its Continuation till *Canutus* the *Dane*, *&c.* with a Compendious Memorial of the now Cathedral Church of *Glouceſter*, from *Edward the Confeſſor* to King *Henry* the Eighth. Afterwards you have its Ordained Conſtitution into a Biſhop's See, their preſcript Rule of Living, their yearly

Stipends

Stipends and other Allowances, the Names of the Bishops and Deans to the late unhappy Wars, and when they were Consecrated or Installed, *&c.* The Articles of the Chapter of that Foundation; with a Catalogue of all the Bishops, Deans, Chancellors, Archdeacons, and Prebends of that Church, since His late Majesty's Restoration, to this present Year; with the supposed Valuations of every Minister, and other Mens Places belonging thereunto: And an Account of all Statues, Monuments, and Memorials therein contained; its particular Dimensions, both within and without, and many other very remarkable Observations, particularly relating to the Cathedral of *Gloucester*.

In the Third Section you have the General Description of the County of *Gloucester*, according to the Ecclesiastical Order, branched forth into Ten Deanries, briefly compiled into Eight Columes. In the First you have an Alphabet of every Parish-Church and Chapel, and to what Abby, Monastery, or other Religious House it formerly belonged; in the Second, the Names of the Patrons; in the Third, the Names of the present Incumbents; in the Fourth, their supposed Valuation; in the Fifth, their Tenths; in the Sixth, their Procurations; in the Seventh, their Pentecosts; in the Eighth, their Synodals.

In the Fourth Section (which is the Forest-Division) you have the particular Division of the County according to the Common or Civil Jurisdiction, principally separated into Four Partitions, which is afterwards drawn into Thirty Hundreds, and lastly subdivided into Parishes, Hamlets, and Tythings; all Alphabetically: Where you have an Account of every Market-Town as it lieth within its respective Hundred, with its Original Denomination, how Situated, Extended, and Bounded, either with Hills, Rivers, Woods, or Commons; the Constitution of its Government, the Antiquity of its Charter, Lords of the Mannors, and the particular Trade and Commerce on which each Town dependeth, and how far distant it lieth from the next adjacent Markets. Moreover, in each of those Market-Towns you have a particular Description of every Church, and by whom, and when some of them were built, and to what Saint Dedicated, with an account of all Statues, Monuments, and Memorials, Hospitals, Alms-houses, and Free-Schools; and all other good and Commendable Gifts, bequeath'd either to Church or Poor, in every Market-Town or Village throughout the County, with the Names of each Donor, and how many Poor People they entertain, and what Weekly Allowances they have; and what every School-Master and Usher (if any) have by the Year, and by whom paid. Besides all this, you have a particular Survey in every Hundred, of all *Roman* and *Mercian* Fortifications, *Saxon* Rampires, and *Danish* Camps, with the Significations of those Rubbish Piles of Earth called *Berrows*, and what hath been found under many of them; as also your Chequer-work Pavements, Stoups, Numismata's, Veins of Ore, Quarries, and variety of Solid Stones found up and down many Places in this County, *&c.*

The Fifth Section treateth of *Kiftgates* Upper and Lower Division.

The Sixth Section treateth of the Seven-Hundred Division. And,

The Seventh Section treateth of *Berkeley*'s Upper and Lower Divisions. And at the End of these Four Divisions, you have an Alphabet of all the Gentlemens Names and Coats of Arms in the County, engraved upon Copper Plates, and Emblazoned by Hatching-strokes.

The Eighth Section is a Tract relating to Gentility in general; wherein you have an Account of all His Majesties Justices of the Peace, and Knights of the Shire, with a Catalogue of all the High-Sheriffs from the First of King *Henry* the Second, to this present Year. Wherein is contained

tained the Names and Seats of all the Knights-Batchelors, Knights-Baronets, and Knights of the Bath, *&c.* and when they were either Dubb'd or Created. Moreover, you have the Names, Seats, and Titles of Honour appertaining to the Greater Luminaries of the County, (*viz.*) all Viſcounts, Barons, Earls, Marqueſſes, and Dukes, gradually ranked according to their Aſcending Qualities, *&c.*

The Ninth Section treateth of the Military Juriſdiction of the County; where you have an Account of the Names of all Commiſſioned Officers in a Regimental Order, and how many Soldiers every Pariſh, Hamlet, and Tything provideth, throughout the County.

The Tenth Section containeth Directions for all Travellers, and others, from every Market-Town, or Pariſh, to any Hamlet or Village in the County, ſeldom exceeding two Miles.

The Eleventh and laſt Section is the Hiſtory of the City of *Briſtol*, from its firſt Original, to the late unhappy Wars.

The Subſcription-Money for and towards the Compleating of this ſo Good and Uſeful a Work, is Ten Shillings paid down, and Ten Shillings more to be paid by each Subſcriber when he receiveth the Book well and handſomly Bound. And that no Subſcriber may be deceived, the Author giveth notice to all Subſcribers in London, *That they ſhall have publick notice from Mr.* Luke Singleton *at the* Plough and Harrow *in the* Poultry, *when to come and receive their Books of him, and no Man elſe in the City: And as for the Gentry of the Country, they ſhall have timely notice from the Author, where to receive them moſt for their Conveniency, according to their ſeveral Seats or Habitations.*

The Author lodgeth at the Three Cups *in* Breadſtreet, *where he may be ſpoke with any Morning this Week, from Eight of the Clock till Ten: And afterwards thoſe Gentlemen that are willing to ſubſcribe, are deſired to repair to Mr.* Singleton, *who will receive their Subſcriptions.*

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